UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/316,033	05/21/1999	KOUKI HATAKEYAMA	0879-0234P	7274

2292 7590 10/03/2005

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER	
AGGARWAL, YOGESH K	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2615	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/316,033	HATAKEYAMA, KOUKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yogesh K. Aggarwal	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 July 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,11,12,16 and 17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,11,12,16 and 17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 16 and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 16 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (JP 08-096493) in view of Saito (JP 03-186073).

[Claim 1]

Maeda discloses an electronic camera comprising:

an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., Fig. 1);

an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into an external storage medium (e.g., hard disk unit 18 of Fig. 1);

a connector for detachably connecting the external storage medium to the external storage medium interface (e.g., elements 131 and 181 of Fig. 5);

an external storage medium chamber for receiving the external storage medium connected to the external storage medium interface, the external storage medium

chamber having an opening through which the external storage medium is received (e.g., Figs. 5):

a lid for closing the opening of the external storage medium chamber (e.g., lid 12 of Fig. 5);

a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., power supply part element 28 of Fig. 5; paragraph 0050);

a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part, wherein the master switch is a switch to be operated manually (e.g., there is inherently some sort of manually operated master switch in at least through the insertion/removal of batteries or other power supply to the camera);

a detector for detecting that the lid is opened and closed (e.g., switch 15 of Fig. 5; paragraph 0047).

a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on (e.g., Fig. 9; paragraphs 0046-0051), and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply (e.g., power is inherently resumed upon detecting that the lid is closed, otherwise once the power was suspended it would never be restarted again), wherein when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is turned on, the controller suspends the power supply from the power supply part to at least the external storage medium while maintaining the power supply from the power supply part to the detector while the master switch is on (e.g., Fig. 9; paragraphs 0046-0051).

Maeda fails to disclose he controller has a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended and the controller turns off the master switch when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time shorter than a time for an automatic power-off control while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed.

However Saito teaches an information recording and reproducing device with a recording medium 21 loaded to a disk drive mechanism 6 and is detected by a detection switch 23. When the medium 21 is fitted and a non-operating state is continued over the first prescribed time, a power source is turned off. A timer to measure the elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended would be inherently taught. When the medium 21 is not fitted and the non-operating state is continued over a second time shorter than the first time, the power source is turned off (Abstract and constitution). The benefit of doing so would be to have a higher power saving effect as taught in Saito (Abstract and constitution).

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Maeda and Saito, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended and the controller turns off the power supply part when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time shorter than a time for an automatic power-off control while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed wherein the benefit of doing so would be to have a higher power saving effect as taught in Saito (Abstract and constitution).

In regards to claim 2 see Examiner's notes on the rejection of claim 1. Note that the power is suspended to the external storage medium.

In regards to claims 11, 12, 16, and 17 see Examiner's notes on the rejections above.

4. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 6,542,186 to Uryu), (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo), (USPN 5,423,045 to Kannan et al) and in further view of Saito (JP 03-186073).

[Claim 1]

In regards to claim 1 Uryu discloses an electronic camera comprising:

an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., Fig. 1);

an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into an external storage medium (e.g., element 110 of Fig. 1);

a connector for detachably connecting the external storage medium to the external storage medium interface (e.g., column 5, lines 20-23; Figs. 1, 3, and 5);

an external storage medium chamber for receiving the external storage medium connected to the external storage medium interface, the external storage medium chamber having an opening through which the external storage medium is received (e.g., Figs. 1, 3, and 5):

a lid for closing the opening of the external storage medium chamber (e.g., element 57 of Figs. 2 and 3);

a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., a power supply is inherent with any electronic camera);

a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part, wherein the master switch is a switch to be operated manually (e.g., element 52 of Figs. 2 and 3; column 5, lines 51-52);

a detector for detecting that the lid is opened and closed (e.g., element 120 of Figs. 1 and 3; column 6, lines 2-4).

Uryu further discloses that the opening of the lid is a detection of removing the memory card (column 6, lines 15-25).

Uryu does not disclose nor preclude a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply, wherein when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is turned on, the controller suspends the power supply from the power supply part to at least the external storage medium while maintaining the power supply from the power supply part to the detector while the master switch is on.

Matsuo discloses to turn off power to the camera when the memory card is detected to be removed so as to prevent unnecessary consumption of power when picture taking is impossible (column 4, lines 53-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have added Matsuo's power termination method in order to prevent unnecessary consumption of power when picture taking is impossible. As such, the combination teaches a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on.

Matsuo further discloses a card detecting switch 18 for detecting whether or not a memory card is loaded into the chamber (column 4, lines 53-56). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have added the card detecting switch 18 such that the

resumption of power is valid when the lid is closed again. As such, resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply is performed.

Examiner notes that it is implicit with the Matsuo reference that when the power is suspended the detector still receives power so that it can detect when the lid is closed. Otherwise, once the lid was opened and power was suspended it would never be able to be turned back on. As such, the detector clearly still has power supplied to it during the power suspension mode

Uryu in view of Matsuo still does not disclose nor preclude the limitation that the controller suspends the power supply from the power supply part to at least the external storage medium while maintaining the power supply from the power supply part to the detector while the master switch is on. In particular, Uryu in view of Matsuo discloses suspending power through turning off the master switch.

Kannan discloses, as is very well known and established in the electronic art, a state diagram in Fig. 5 wherein if a camera is in a normal mode it can be switched to a standby state by either a period of inactivity or by performing an event to cause the electronics to go into a standby state. Further Kannan discloses that if the electronics are in a standby state for a predetermined time then the power is fully turned off (column 5, lines 39-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have placed the camera in a standby mode when removing the memory card instead of turning off the power in order to realize a quicker startup time and/or conserve power. Further it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if

necessary to have added the step of terminating power after a predetermined time in a standby state in order to further conserve power. As such, the master switch is still on upon the suspension of power.

Uryu, Matsuo in view of Kannan fails to disclose the controller has a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended and the controller turns off the master switch when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time shorter than a time for an automatic power-off control while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed.

However Saito teaches an information recording and reproducing device with a recording medium 21 loaded to a disk drive mechanism 6 and is detected by a detection switch 23. When the medium 21 is fitted and a non-operating state is continued over the first prescribed time, a power source is turned off. A timer to measure the elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended would be inherently taught. When the medium 21 is not fitted and the non-operating state is continued over a second time shorter than the first time, the power source is turned off (Abstract and constitution). The benefit of doing so would be to have a higher power saving effect as taught in Saito (Abstract and constitution).

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Uryu, Matsuo, Kannan and Saito, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended and the controller turns off the power supply part when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time shorter than a time for an automatic power-off control while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed wherein the benefit of doing so would be to have a higher power saving effect as taught in Saito (Abstract and constitution).

In regards to claim 2 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claim 1.

In regards to claim 11 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claim 1. Note that the claimed chamber mechanism is implicit with any memory card chamber. Note in particular the disclosure on column 5, lines 20-24. Further note the obvious addition of Matsuo's card detecting switch for detecting whether the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium.

In regards to claim 12 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 1 and 11.

In regards to claims 16 and 17 see Examiners notes on the rejections above.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh K. Aggarwal whose telephone number is (571) 272-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)-272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YKA
September 27, 2005

DAVID L. OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT
EXAMINER